THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The Expert Committee on Aircraft Accidents has submitted its reports to the Government in May, 2005. The Committee, based on the analysis of trends, has found that older technology aircraft including MiG-21 are more prone to failure. The new technology aircraft incorporates improved design features, which provides better air safety.

Pilot error constitutes approximately 43% of the aircraft accidents in the Indian Air Force (IAF). The trend is found in all aviation organizations (civil and military) across the world. Aircraft accidents due to Technical Defects (TD) accidents account for 39% of the accidents in the IAF.

The Committee has made wide-ranging recommendations towards improving pilot training, covering all aspect of pilot selection and training. These include upgrading of selection requirement, induction of new "Computerised Pilot Selection System" at Air Force Selection Boards, simulator training flying, focused training, closer monitoring of the pilots by supervisors, re-streaming/re-training of pilots, etc. The Committee has also suggested to formulate a strategy to manage the risk inherent in the old technology aircraft, monitoring of failure trends and strengthening of quality assurance and airworthiness certification procedues at the overhauling facilities of the Indian Air Force (IAF) and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

Necessary flight safety measures, on the basis of recommendations of such Committees, are continuously undertaken by the Government.

Security in Delhi Metro

1002. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to enhance security and safety measures in the Delhi Metro railways keeping in view the recent bomb blast incidents in London Metro Railways; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The issue of security of Metro Rail was discussed in a high level meeting convened by the Union Home Secretary in which it was decided to prepare a comprehensive and integrated plan for the security of Delhi Metro Rail. Accordingly, a Team of Officers is in the process of finalizing the security plan including provisions for rescue and evacuation with a station-wise link up with police stations, fire stations, hospitals, ambulance services, help groups, access control, checking of commuters and baggage, protection from terrorist and subversive elements etc. A squad of sniffer dogs and bomb squad has already been deployed by Delhi Police to detect RDX and other raw materials utilized for manufacturing explosives.

Import of weapons in NER

1003. SHRI EKANATH K.THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the North East Region is awash with small arms from nine countries and there is little check on their movement, despite the fact that India is a signatory to the Programme for Action, framed after the UN conference on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in 2001; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to check the illegal import of weapons in North East States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) There are reports that the Indian Insurgent Groups (MGs) from North East manage to procure small arms, available in international market, and these are smuggled inside the country through Myanmarand Bangladesh.

(b) Apart from increasing vigilance on the international border by strengthening deployment of border guarding forces and ongoing project for fencing of the border, India's concerns are also expressed in delegation level meetings and other foras with Myanmar and Bangladesh. Cooperation of these countries has been sought inputting an end to the anti-India activities from their soil.